

# Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

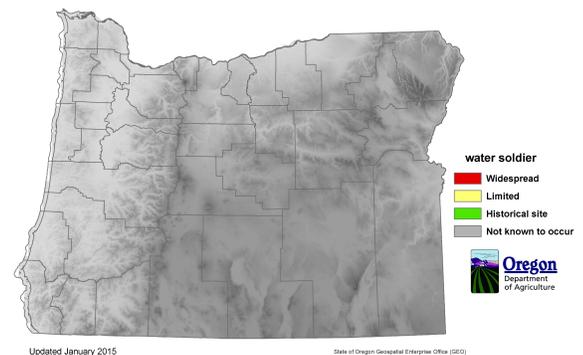
**Water soldier**  
*Stratiotes aloides*

**Other common names:** pineapple plant,  
water-aloe

**USDA symbol:** STAL6  
**ODA rating:** A



**Introduction:** Water soldier is the only species within the genus *Stratiotes*; as a member of the Hydrocharitaceae it is related to hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*), waterweeds (*Elodea* spp.), and spongeplant (*Limnobium* spp.) among others. Water soldier forms dense mats through spreading stolons in still to moderate-moving waters. These plants are perennial, monocotyledonous freshwater herb which grow submerged in autumn and winter and become buoyant in the spring and summer.



**Distribution:** Not known to occur in Oregon.

**Description:** Water soldier has an interesting growth habit: during the growing season plants float or sit partially emergent and in winter plants sink to the sediment. Water soldier may root lightly in the sediment, but plants are often free-floating. Some populations reportedly remain rooted year round in oligotrophic waters (Nielson and Borum 2008). Sharp-spines edge the margins of each leaf. Leaves are slightly triangular to linear, tapering to a narrow point and forming large rosettes that resemble spider plants, aloe or the tops of pineapples. Plants are dioecious; male flowers are borne in clusters of three to six, and female flowers are solitary (rarely with two flowers). Showy, white, three-petaled flowers are held above the water on peduncles.

**Impacts:** Infestations negatively impacting boating and swimming and will likely have similar effects on other recreational water activities. The sharp spines are capable of cutting swimmers skin. Thick growths of aquatic plants could potentially increase the risk of flooding and the cost of water delivery by slowing the passage of water through canals, marshes and streams.

**Biological controls:** None are available. Infestations would be targeted for eradication.



Oregon Department of Agriculture • Noxious Weed Control Program  
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Photos (left) Jörg Hempel,  
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